

NS537881 and in some rough pasture known as the Whin Park NS434880 near the south-east corner of Loch Lomond. Both of these well separated localities had been visited by the writer on a number of previous occasions in the appropriate season without recording the species' presence.

It is worth adding that in the late 1970's, Thomson (1980) noted that the Ringlet had re-occupied some of its former haunts in the Glasgow area as part of a general expansion of the butterfly's range in Scotland.

Reference

Thomson, G. (1980). *The Butterflies of Scotland*. Croom Helm, London.

Malthinus seriepunctatus Kiesenwetter new to Inverness-shire, and records of other scarce Scottish Cantharidae (Coleoptera)

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Malthinus seriepunctatus has a broadly southern distribution in Britain, becoming much scarcer north of a line from the Mersey to the Wash. In Scotland, there are few published records and occasional museum specimens, all from the southern half of the country. However, beetles were swept in small numbers in Coille Mhailairigh, Glenelg (NG812122), VC 97 (West Inverness), 17.vi.1997, extending its known range northwards along the west coast considerably.

The main range of *Cantharis pellucida* penetrates further north than that of *M. seriepunctatus*, but the distribution begins to thin out significantly around the Clyde/Forth line. Further north there are a scatter of records along the west coast plus a concentration in the Spey Valley, but very few other records. My June 1997 visit to the west coast found the beetle to be plentiful in two important reserves of ancient semi-natural Caledonian oak woodland: Dalavich Oakwood (NM967135), 9.vi.1997, & Glen Nant (NN012297), 10.vi.1997, both VC 98 (Argyll Main).

There are remarkably few Scottish records for *Rhagonycha testacea* - the main part of its British range appears to stop around the borders, from whence there is only a thin scatter of modern records concentrated along the west coast, with a few older records further east. The species was, however, found to be plentiful in the damp ancient semi-natural woodland of Glen Nant (NN012297), 10.vi.1997, but was not found anywhere else.

Thanks go to all recorders who have made their records available to the Cantharoidea and Buprestoidea Recording Scheme.

Recent Records of the Giant Gad Fly in the North Clyde Area

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On 3 August 1996, a single Giant Gad Fly *Tabanus sudeticus* Zeller was observed at close quarters in an open part of Auchentorlie forestry plantation in the western Kilpatrick Hills. This was the first time I had encountered the largest member of the *Tabanidae* family of biting flies in Scotland, but it was quite unmistakable due to its exceptional size - the females up to 25

mm in length, with a wing span of nearly 50 mm - and an audible humming flight (Colyer & Hammond, 1968).

Later enquiry produced only a few previous records from the surrounding district: Glen Mallon on Loch Longside and Bonhill in the Vale of Leven (Grimshaw, 1901); an entry for Dumbarton in the Clyde Card Catalogue (*per* Geoffrey Hancock); Gartlea on the northern edge of Dumbarton Muir, where the late Iain Christie's field notebook mentions that he saw several specimens in early July 1975 (*per* Jane Christie).

In view of the paucity of localised records of the Giant Gad Fly for the North Clyde Area, it seems worthy of notice that the insect, which is troublesome to both man and beast, was reported from three widely scattered spots in 1998: Twenty Acre Meadow, in the lower flood plain of the River Endrick, 1 July (Colin Horne); Ardess, near Rowardennan, 13 July (Alasdair Eckersall) and the disused Dumfin Sand Quarry, Glen Fruin, 29 August (John Knowler & John Mitchell).

References

Colyer, C.N. & Hammond, C.O. (1968). *Flies of the British Isles* (2nd ed.). Frederick Warne, London.

Grimshaw, P.H. (1901). 'Order Diptera', Ps 258-266 in Scott-Elliot, G.F. *et al* (editors), *Fauna, Flora and Geology of the Clyde Area*. British Association handbook.

Kingfisher on the River Kelvin in 1998

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A pair of kingfisher established on the River Kelvin in the vicinity of Kelvingrove late in 1997 and were active throughout 1998. The pair were seen in early spring and notably on the 24 March when they were flushed from their riverside hide during an attack by a sparrow hawk on grey wagtail working the Kelvin and which caused general widespread panic amongst local birds. During April, May and June there was much noisy activity along the river, often about the weir below the Art Galleries down to the outfall of the sewer from that property, about 50 metres upstream of the weir near Old Partick Bridge.

On the 22 June the weir was the site of an interesting encounter between Swifts which were flying close down to the river surface and a kingfisher. The early morning sighting began with watching the Swifts but soon a kingfisher came up the Kelvin carrying a fish. The kingfisher was flying almost on the same level as the Swifts and swerved to avoid a near miss with one. The kingfisher climbed sharply in flight towards Gilmorehill, flitting around and across where I stood and then back over the river to the east bank. It then flew along the pathway below the Art Galleries site and next to the Kelvin and disappeared, still with its fish, in the area of the outfall of the sewer.

A reason for so much noisy activity and fish carrying was revealed by early June 1998 when at least one young bird was seen on the river. On the 2nd July a young kingfisher was calling for attention in bushes near the bridge carrying Kelvin Way over the River Kelvin. The bird was seen both early morning and mid-day during which time it was attended regularly by both parent birds carrying small-fry. The young